



## Conclusion

The concluding chapter of the text reviews the approach to the material adopted by the authors. Just as the boundaries between domestic and international politics are becoming harder to maintain in a globalizing world, so too are the conceptual and methodological boundaries between the normative and empirical aspects of political science as a discipline. The political and technological changes of the late twentieth century and early twenty-first century suggest the possible emergence of a new medievalism in which there are multiple overlapping authorities and loyalties. Rather than a unipolar world dominated by the sole remaining superpower, the United States, we are currently witnessing the rise of China, the EU, Russia, the “Islamic world,” and the increasing importance of the “global South.” The twenty-first century will be a time of reconfiguration as the Western sovereign-state model and the traditional forms of political analysis that accompany it decline in relative importance. The concluding chapter illustrates that the way that we study political science has changed.

### Chapter Outline

- **Politics in Context**
- **Globalization**
- **New Medievalism**
- **Rise of the Global South**
- **The Study of Politics in a Globalizing World**

### Discussion Questions

1. Would you say that the world is becoming more or less chaotic? What factors influence your evaluation?

2. Some have suggested that the twenty-first century will see the emergence of a “new medievalism.” What does this mean? Do you agree with the assessment? Why or why not?
3. Are we currently in the midst of a “third wave” of democratization? Why or why not?
4. Slaughter (1997) claims that “the state is not disappearing; it is disaggregating into its separate functional distinct parts.” What does this mean? Would you consider this a positive or negative development?
5. Is political science an inherently Western discipline, ill-suited for the analysis of other forms of political organization, or is it capable of more than that? What might the discipline look like as we move further into the twenty-first century?
6. How has political science changed? Based on this chapter and the book as a whole, the discipline of political science has changed. Is this change good?
7. How does globalization influence global civil society? Does this change make the world smaller?

## Further Resources

- <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/>  
World Politics Review; news briefs, analysis and discussion of events relating to world politics
- <http://www.ipsa.org/>  
International Political Science Association home page
- <http://www.isanet.org/>  
International Studies Association home page
- <http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/political-science/17-196-globalization-fall-2005/>  
MIT OpenCourseWare, Global
- <http://www.lse.ac.uk/internationalRelations/centresandunits/globalsouth/GShome.aspx>  
Global South Unit, London School of Economics